

Message Text

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LIMDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PORTUGAL: ANTUNES' STRATEGY

SOURCES WITHIN THE ANTUNES GROUP HAVE INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THEIR STRATEGY IS TO AVOID A SHOOTING CONFRONTATION WHILE BUILDING SUFFICIENT SUPPORT WITHIN THE MILITARY TO FORCE THE PRESIDENT TO FIRE THE PRIME MINISTER AND DISMISS THE PRESENT COMMUNIST DOMINATED GOVERNMENT. THE GROUP IS MODERATELY OPTIMISTIC OVER ITS PROSPECTS AND:

--ESTIMATES 85-90 PERCENT OF THE MILITARY IS ON ITS SIDE;

--EXPECTS THE ONLY LIKELY RESISTANCE WILL COME FROM A DESPERATE EFFORT BY LEFT-INFLUENCED MARINES IN LISBON.

AFTER MUSTERING SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR A SHOWDOWN, THE GROUP
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MAY ATTEMPT TO CONVENE A MEETING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WHICH THE OUSTED MEMBERS WOULD ATTEND. THEY WILL ARGUE THAT THEIR SUSPENSION WAS NOT LEGAL.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE CLEAREST INDICATION YET OF THE DEPTH OF SUPPORT ENJOYED BY THE ANTUNES GROUP IS THAT COPCON BOWED TO PRESSURE FROM THE CENTRAL MILITARY REGION NOT TO PERMIT

RELIEF OF ITS COMMANDER. THE MODERATES FACE, HOWEVER, A DEDICATED AND DISCIPLINED ADVERSARY IN THE PCP WHICH ENJOYS EXTENSIVE SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE MEDIA, UNIONS, BUREAUCRACY AND AMONG THE ENLISTED RANKS. GONCALVES WILL FIGHT SKILLFULLY AND HARD BEFORE RELINQUISHING POWER. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 4558 (LIMDIS), 8/11.)

2. EGYPTIAN DEMARCHE ON EXPULSION OF ISRAEL

ACTING ON WHAT HE INDICATED WERE CIRCULAR INSTRUCTIONS, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR ABOUZEID HAS INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN OF EGYPT'S OPPOSITION TO THE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UN. THE AMBASSADOR BRIEFED EMBASSY KABUL ON THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS DEMARCHE, AND SAID:

--EGYPT'S RATIONALE IS THAT EXPULSION WILL UPSET THE DELICATE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, WILL GIVE ISRAEL AN EXCUSE TO IGNORE UN RESOLUTIONS, AND WILL ENCOURAGE EXTREMISM ON BOTH SIDES. (CONFIDENTIAL) KABUL 5224, 8/11.)

3. PERSIAN GULF

A. IRAQ FAVORS GULF SECURITY PACT

USINT BAGHDAD REPORTS THAT IRAQ IS SERIOUSLY PURSUING A GULF SECURITY PACT IN ORDER TO:

--ESTABLISH SECURE PASSAGE THROUGH THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ;

--PROMOTE AN EVENTUAL SECURITY AGREEMENT EXCLUDING OUTSIDE POWERS FROM THE AREA.

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THE INTEREST SECTION BELIEVES THAT SUCH A PACT WOULD WORK IN THE OUR FAVOR BY EXCLUDING THE SOVIETS, BUT CAUTIONS THAT IT WOULD ALSO:

--REQUIRE A LOOSENING OF OUR BILATERAL TIES WITH SOME OF THE SMALLER GULF STATES; AND

--MEAN EVENTUALLY RELINQUISHING OUR BASE RIGHTS IN BAHRAIN.

B. BAHRAIN TO TERMINATE MIDEASTFOR

FOREIGN MINISTER KHALIFA HAS INFORMED AMBASSADOR TWINAM THAT

THE GOB WILL DELIVER, NOT LATER THAN THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 12, NOTIFICATION OF ITS DECISION TO TERMINATE MIDEASTFOR ON

JUNE 30, 1977. KHALIFA STRESSED:

--HIS HOPE THAT THE AREA SITUATION WILL PERMIT REVIEW OF THE DECISION IN 1976, POSSIBLY PERMITTING EXTENSION OF THE NAVY'S PRESENCE BEYOND 1977; AND

--THE GOB'S PERCEPTION THAT, LACKING "POPULAR OR PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT" FOR THE NAVY'S CONTINUED PRESENCE, IT MUST "DEPOLITICIZE" THE ISSUE IMMEDIATELY OR FACE A POLITICAL DEFEAT. (SECRET) MANAMA 932 (LIMDIS), 8/11.)

4. INTERNAL SOVIET POST-HELSINKI LINE ON CSCE

EMBASSY MOSCOW HAS LEARNED THAT A SERIES OF PARTY MEETINGS IS BEING HELD THROUGHOUT CENTRAL ASIA TO EXPLAIN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HELSINKI CONCLUDING ACT TO PARTY MEMBERS. ACCORDING TO THE SOVIET INTERPRETATION:

--CSCE HAS NOT CHANGED LONG TERM SOVIET GOALS AND THE PRESCRIPTION FOR CLASS CONFLICT REMAINS VALID.

--THE ACT IS AN EXPLICIT RECOGNITION OF THE SUCCESS OF CURRENT SOVIET DETENTE TACTICS.

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--ANY CHANGE FROM THE CURRENT STRATEGY, ANY RECOURSE TO MILITARY INTERVENTION OR THREATS OF MILITARY ACTION IS EXCLUDED AS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

CHAIRMAN BREZHNEV IS GIVEN FULL CREDIT FOR CSCE, BUT IS ALSO CREDITED WITH THE ADMONITION THAT CURRENT TACTICS DO NOT SIGNIFY A SHIFT FROM LONG TERM GOALS. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 11299 (LIMDIS), 8/11.) KISSINGER

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